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December 4, 1903

*Inspection at El Paso.*

Acting Assistant Surgeon Alexander reports as follows:

Week ended November 14, 1903—	
Inspection Mexican Central passengers .....	287
Inspection Mexican immigrants .....	109
Inspection certificate of cause of death of corpse transferred into United States .....	1
Disinfection soiled linen imported for laundry .....	pieces.. 414
Week ended November 21, 1903—	
Mexican Central passengers inspected .....	245
Mexican laborers imported in bond inspected .....	15
Mexican immigrants inspected .....	80
Soiled linen imported for laundry inspected .....	pieces.. 249
Inspection certificate of corpse transferred into United States .....	1
Disinfected cattle hides imported from Mexico .....	614

*Smallpox near Bangor, Me.*

Acting Assistant Surgeon Small reports as follows: Orono, Me., reports 1 new case and Old Town 2 new cases since my last report.

A number of towns near Bangor report from 1 to 2 cases.

*Rules governing the transportation of the dead.*

[The following rules, adopted by the conference of State and provincial boards of health of North America held in Baltimore, October 23 and 24, 1903, were received from Dr. Gardiner T. Swartz, secretary of the conference, who states that it was also voted that January 1, 1904, be accepted as the date upon which these rules be put into effect throughout the United States and provinces of Canada.]

RULE 1. The transportation of bodies dead of smallpox or bubonic plague from one State, Territory, district, or province to another is absolutely prohibited.

RULE 2. The transportation of bodies dead of Asiatic cholera, yellow fever, typhus fever, diphtheria (membranous croup), scarlet fever (scarlatina, scarlet rash), erysipelas, glanders, anthrax, or leprosy shall not be accepted for transportation unless prepared for shipment by being thoroughly disinfected by (a) arterial and cavity injection with an approved disinfecting fluid; (b) disinfection and stopping of all orifices with absorbent cotton, and (c) washing the body with the disinfectant, all of which must be done by an embalmer holding a certificate as such, issued by the State or provincial board of health or other State or provincial authority provided for by law.

After being disinfected as above, such body shall be enveloped in a layer of dry cotton, not less than 1 inch thick, completely wrapped in a sheet securely fastened, and encased in an air-tight zinc, tin, copper, or lead lined coffin or iron casket, all joints and seams hermetically sealed, and all inclosed in a strong, tight wooden box. Or the body, being prepared for shipment by disinfecting and wrapping as above, may be placed in a strong coffin or casket, and said coffin or casket encased in an air-tight zinc, copper, or tin lined box, all joints and seams hermetically soldered.

For interstate transportation under this rule, only embalmers holding a license issued or approved by the State or provincial board of health, or other State or provincial authority provided for by law, after examination, shall be recognized as competent to prepare such bodies for shipment.

RULE 3. The bodies of those dead of typhoid fever, puerperal fever, tuberculosis, or measles may be received for transportation when prepared for shipment by arterial and cavity injection with an approved disinfecting fluid, washing the exterior of the body with the same,

and enveloping the entire body with a layer of cotton not less than one inch thick, and all wrapped in a sheet securely fastened, and encased in an air-tight metallic coffin or casket or air-tight metal-lined box; provided that this shall apply only to bodies which can reach their destination within thirty hours from the time of death. In all other case such bodies shall be prepared by a licensed embalmer holding a certificate as provided for in rule 2. When prepared by a licensed embalmer, as defined and directed in rule 2, the air-tight sealing and bandaging with cotton may be dispensed with.

RULE 4. The bodies of those dead from any cause not stated in rules 2 and 3 may be received for transportation when encased in a sound coffin or casket and inclosed in a strong outside wooden box, provided they can reach their destination within thirty hours from the time of death. If the body can not reach its destination within thirty hours from the time of death, it must be prepared for shipment by arterial and cavity injection with an approved disinfecting fluid, washing the exterior of the body with the same, and enveloping the entire body with a layer of dry cotton not less than one inch thick, and all wrapped in a sheet securely fastened, and encased in an air-tight metallic coffin or casket or an air-tight metal-lined box. But when the body has been prepared for shipment by being thoroughly disinfected by a licensed embalmer, as defined and directed in rule 2, the air-tight sealing and bandaging with cotton may be dispensed with.

RULE 5. In the shipment of bodies dead from any disease named in rule 2, such body must not be accompanied by persons or articles which have been exposed to the infection of the disease, unless certified by the health officer as having been properly disinfected.

Before selling tickets, agents should carefully examine the transit permit and note the name of the passenger in charge, and of any others proposing to accompany the body, and see that all necessary precautions have been taken to prevent the spread of the disease. The transit permit in such cases shall specifically state who is authorized by the health authorities to accompany the remains. In all cases where bodies are forwarded under rule 2, notice must be sent by telegraph by the shipping embalmer to the health officer, or, when there is no health officer, to other competent authority at destination, advising the date and train on which the body may be expected.

RULE 6. Every dead body must be accompanied by a person in charge, who must be provided with a passage ticket, and also present a full first-class ticket marked "Corpse," for the transportation of the body, and a transit permit showing physician's or coroner's certificate, name of deceased, date and hour of death, age, place of death, cause of death, and all other items of the standard certificate of death recommended by the American Public Health Association and adopted by the United States Census Bureau, as far as obtainable, including health officer's or registrar's permit for removal, whether a communicable or noncommunicable disease, the point to which the body is to be shipped, and, when death is caused by any of the diseases specified in rule 2, the names of those authorized by the health authorities to accompany the body. Also the undertaker's certificate as to how the body has been prepared for shipment. The transit permit must be made in duplicate, and the signature of physician or coroner, health officer, and undertaker must be on both the original and duplicate copies. The undertaker's or registrar's certificate and paster of the original shall be detached from the transit permit and securely fastened on the end

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of the coffin box. All coffin boxes must be provided with at least four handles. The physician's certificate and transit permit shall be handed to the passenger in charge of the corpse. The whole duplicate copy shall be sent to the official in charge of the baggage department of the initial line, and by him to the secretary of the State or provincial board of health of the State or province from which said shipment is made.

RULE 7. When bodies are shipped by express, a transit permit, as described in Rule 6, must be made out in duplicate. The undertaker's certificate and pasteur of the original shall be detached from the transit permit and securely fastened on the coffin box. The physician's certificate and transit permit shall be attached to and accompany the express waybill covering the remains, and be delivered with the body at the point of destination to the person to whom it is consigned. The whole duplicate copy shall be sent by the forwarding express agent to the secretary of the state or provincial board of health of the State or province from which said shipment was made.

RULE 8. Every disinterred body, dead from any disease or cause, shall be treated as infectious or dangerous to the public health, and shall not be accepted for transportation unless said removal has been approved by the State or provincial health authorities having jurisdiction where such body is disinterred, and the consent of the health authorities of the locality to which the corpse is consigned has first been obtained; and all such disinterred remains, or the coffin or casket containing the same, must be wrapped in a woolen blanket thoroughly saturated with a 1-1000 solution of corrosive sublimate and inclosed in a hermetically soldered zinc, tin, or copper lined box. But bodies deposited in receiving vaults shall not be treated and considered the same as buried bodies, when originally prepared by a licensed embalmer as defined in Rule 2 and as directed in Rule 2 or 3 (according to the nature of the disease causing death), provided shipment takes place within thirty days from the time of death. The shipment of bodies prepared in the manner above directed by licensed embalmers from receiving vaults may be made within thirty days from time of death without having to obtain permission from the health authorities of the locality to which the body is consigned. After thirty days the casket or coffin box containing said body must be inclosed in a hermetically soldered box.

RULE 9. All rules and parts of rules conflicting with these rules are hereby repealed.

*Statistical reports of States and cities of the United States—Yearly and monthly.*

ILLINOIS—*Bellerville*.—Two weeks ended November 21, 1903. Estimated population, 17,800. Total number of deaths, 14. No deaths from contagious diseases.

IOWA—*Des Moines*.—Month of October, 1903. Estimated population, 80,000. Total number of deaths, 53. No deaths from contagious diseases reported.

MICHIGAN.—Reports to the State board of health, Lansing, for the week ended November 21, 1903, from 74 observers, indicate that influenza, intermittent fever, and diphtheria were more prevalent, and diarrhoea, enteric fever, pleuritis, inflammation of bowels, scarlet